

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13 /078 W

-----062940 281422Z /43

O P 281250Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8414

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 1916

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1944

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED  
PLOT

REF: KINSHASA 1796

1. SUMMARY: ZAIRIAN CAMPAIGN OF ARRESTS WHICH BEGAN ABOUT  
FEB 18 APPARENTLY RESULTED IN DETENTION OF APPROXIMATELY 75  
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PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM MILITARY. GOZ AND LOCAL MEDIA HAVE RE-  
FRAINED FROM PUBLICIZING EVENTS, PROBABLY IN PART TO AVOID  
GIVING IMPRESSION OF DISARRAY DURING PERIOD OF SENSITIVITY IN  
MAELATIONSHIP WITH ANGOLA. GOZ ALSO PROMOTING ATMOSPHERE OF  
NORMALCY DURING ITS EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR  
"MOBUTU PLAN" FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY. GOZ INVESTIGATION RE-  
PORTEDLY CONTINUES TO CENTER ON ACTION MOVEMENT FOR CONGOLESE

RESURRECTION (MARC) AS ALLEGED PLOT INSTIGATOR. END SUMMARY

2. ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN SILENCE ON ARRESTS REPORTED IN REFTEL. ONLY HINT IN LOCAL MEDIA THAT ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAS OCCURRED WAS FEB 23 ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING A MEETING OF MPR PARTY POLITICAL BUREAU WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU. NEWS ITEM SAID MEETING GAVE EXTENSIVE ATTENTION TO EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY OF COUNTRY, AND THAT "SEVERE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES" HAD BEEN TAKEN TO DEAL WITH SITUATION.

3. ACCORDING TO BELGIAN CHARGE, ARRESTS PROBABLY NUMBERED ABOUT 75 BUT MANY OF THOSE WERE FOR ONLY PREVENTIVE/TEMPORARY DETENTION. BELGIANS BELIEVE THAT ALLEGED MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN AFFAIR IS NOW BEING TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY BY GOZ AND THAT 45 TO 60 MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE AMONG THOSE ARRESTED. BELGIAN EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GOZ INVESTIGATION CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON ACTION MOVEMENT FOR CONGOLESE RESURRECTION (MARC) AS ALLEGED INSTIGATOR OF PLOT. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TELLS US THAT HE SEES SOME POSSIBILITY THAT GOZ HAS UNCOVERED NEW EVIDENCE OF MARC MISCHIEF. HOWEVER, HE LEANS STRONGLY TO THEORY THAT MOBUTU ESSENTIALLY IS CARRYING OUT A PERIODIC "PURIFICATION" OF SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY OF MILITARY AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES.

4. IN ABSENCE OF HARD FACTS, RUMORS ABOUND. FIGURE OF ABOUT 75 ARRESTS IS NOW WIDELY ACCEPTED, AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MANY OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED. FOR EXAMPLE, BRIG. CONFIDENTIAL

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GEN. BOPEYA (PARA 4, REFTEL) ALMOST CERTAINLY IS NO LONGER BEING HELD, IF IN FACT, HE WAS EVER ARRESTED. AT LEAST ONE GENERALIZATION SEEMS TO APPLY TO THOSE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED; A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THEM HAS EITHER STUDIED, WORKED, OR TRAVELED ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE.

5. ATMOSPHERE IN COUNTRY FOLLOWING ARRESTS HAS BEEN VERY QUIET. SINCE THE ARRESTS ARE COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN KINSHASA, THERE IS A CONTRIVED QUALITY TO THE NORMALCY. PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS GONE ABOUT HIS PUBLIC DUTIES, INCLUDING A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED WALKING TOUR LATE LAST WEEK OF A MAMMOTH SPORTS PALACE BEING CONSTRUCTED IN KINSHASA BY PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE ASSUME THAT SUCH DISPLAY OF BUSINESS-AS-USUAL IS INTENDED TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION OF DISARRAY AS GOZ LOOKS TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ANGOLA (KINSHASA) 1838 NOTAL). ALSO ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEVOTED ENORMOUS ATTENTION AND EFFORT TO ITS CAMPAIGN TO MUSTER SUPPORT FOR ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM, "THE MOBUTU PLAN." WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOW TRAVELING IN EUROPE AND SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN US ON MARCH 1 IN CONNECTION WITH WITH THE CAMPAIGN, GOZ WOULD BE DISINCLINED TO ADVERTISE INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS. WE ANTICIPATE THE INVESTIGATIONS PROCEEDING IN SILENCE FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS. DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

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